



# What Makes a Jesuit School Jesuit?

Principle and Foundation of  
Jesuit Education  
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# Survey



- What is a Jesuit School? What is an Ignatian school?
- Jesuit schools are works of a Jesuit Province/Region serving the mission recognized by the Provincial or Regional Superior. They are legally (and financially) connected to the Society, which means they are in the direct line of authority from Fr. General exercised through the Provincial/Regional Superior.
- Ignatian schools share the mission of the Society of Jesus and adopt the Ignatian pedagogical tradition. But they are not legally or financially dependent on the Society. Relationship with the Society through a MoU or Agreement with the Major Superior.

# Some Jesuit Jargons



1. Magis
2. IPP (Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm)
3. Ignatian Spirituality
4. Freedom
5. Discernment (in common)
6. Women and Men For and With Others
7. Excellence
8. Human Excellence (the 4Cs)
9. Cura Personalis (Care for the Person)/Cura Apostolica
10. AMDG
11. Collaboration/Networking
12. Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs)
13. Spiritual Conversation
14. Missio Dei
15. ...

# Principle and Foundation of Sp. Exx



Human beings are created to praise, reverence, and serve God our Lord, and by means of doing this to save their souls.

The other things on the face of the earth are created for human beings, to help them in the pursuit of the end for which they are created.

From this it follows that we ought to use these things to the extent that they help us toward our end, and free ourselves from them to the extent that they hinder us from it.

To attain this it is necessary to make ourselves **indifferent to all created things**, in regard to everything which is left to our free will and is not forbidden.

Consequently, on our own part we ought not to seek health rather than sickness, wealth rather than poverty, honor rather than dishonor, a long life rather than a short one, and so on in all other matters. **Rather, we ought to desire and choose only that which is more conducive to the end for which we are created.**

# Spirituality



**Ignatian Spirituality** – Particular approaches to relationships with God, with humanity, with nature, and with self coming from St. Ignatius of Loyola and his companions. *What if majority of students and staff are not Christians?*

**Tension** – Tension is always there. Creativity because of tension

**Discernment** – Respectful *listening* with one's heart and head, reflecting, sincere exchange, listening with the heart again, *reflecting*, then *making a choice*. (Discernment in common – with Jesuits & non-Jesuit partners)

**Magis** – more, better, greater, deeper (seeking new method of teaching for the changing needs of students)

**Freedom** – Physical? Psychological? Moral? Spiritual? Why freedom? So that our students and staff can *better learn and excel* with their potentials. *Freedom for Magis, not individualism or self-interest*

**Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam** – Magis for Missio Dei (Mission of God)

# Education



**IPP** (Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm) – *Context, Experience, Reflection, Action, Evaluation*. A framework that can work with different pedagogies. What was the best lesson that you have ever received? A way of learning. A way of living.

**Cura Personalis** (Care for the Person) – Not cursing the person but understanding, respecting and caring for the needs of the person (SEN students, LGBTQ)

**Cura Apostolica** (Care for the Apostolate) – Effectiveness of the intended mission through the apostolic work.

**Excellence** – The best is not enough? *Living out, celebrating one's potentials (gifts and talents) as much as possible*

**Human Excellence** (the 4Cs) – *Competence, Conscience, Compassion, Commitment* (quality of our students, alumni, and companions in education)

**Women and Men For and With Others** – For (Fr. Arrupe) and With (Fr. Kolvenbach) applied to Jesuits, but also the two virtues to cultivate in our students and ourselves

# Tradition



- Important to focus on the *Ignatian tradition* of the school but *not traditionalism* of the school
- Our tradition is also a tradition of *innovation* and *creativity* for the person, not only excellent results for the school. What do we need to encourage innovation and creativity? **Tension**
- But are creativity and innovation sufficiently emphasized or developed in your school? Why not?

# Competition and Fighting Spirit



- Are our schools **competitive**? In what sense? Is being competitive good?
- We want fighting spirit for our students and ourselves? What is **fighting spirit**?
- How do we distinguish between **contentment** and complacency?



# Reconciliation (GC36)



- **To 'right' our relationships** with Heaven, Earth, Humanity, and Self. Affecting and effecting our decision-making and action
- **Heaven/God** – 老天爺 Our consciousness that we are not alone but accountable to something much bigger than ourselves
- **Common Home** – Nature as well as all living beings in it. Exploitation of the nature resulting in exploitation of the voiceless, but with karma
- **Humanity** – For and With Others (social service, classroom learning in different subjects, e.g., geography, economics, language and culture, chemistry....)
- **Self** – Our affective relationship and cognitive understanding of our own selves. And how we see ourselves in our relationships with the Others

# Discernment (GC36)



- ***In-depth Conversation*** – In-depth listening and conversation with respect for the interiority and reflection. (For Group Discernment: *Looking for convergence while respecting diversity and observing the steps of discernment.* Work especially well in a pluralistic (not relativistic) culture.)
- It is ***a process*** that may end up with a decision or no decision but the process is important. Why so?

# Universal Apostolate Preferences (UAPs) of the Society of Jesus 2019-2029



## Orientation and Transformation

- **To show the way to God** through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment
- **To walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated**, in a mission of reconciliation and justice
- **To accompany young people** in the creation of a hope-filled future
- **To collaborate in the care** of our Common Home

# Human Excellence



Four qualities are distinct but inter-related

1. Conscience
2. Competent
3. Compassion
4. Committed

# Networking and Collaboration (GC36)



- ***No man (person) is an island*** – We are here together learning and sharing
- ***Synergy*** – Hopefully we are building a community of Ignatian educators here. Synergy can be resulted from our sharing and dreaming together, and collaboration
- ***Global Jesuit Network and Resources*** – The best that the Society of Jesus can offer to you and your schools besides our Ignatian spirituality
- ***Global citizen*** – Multiculturality. A major emphasis of JESEDU Rio2017

# Overall



**Reconciliation** – With God/Truth, Goodness, Beauty, and Love, with our Common Home, with Others, and with Self.

**Spiritual (Heart to Heart) Conversation** – For discernment as well as for community building. Deep listening and sharing with three rounds. Heart to heart listening and talking

**UAPs** – To lead others to God through Sp. Exx.; To walk with the poor, outcasts and those whose dignity is violated; To accompany young people for a brighter future; To collaborate in the care of our Common Home

**Collaboration & Networking** – We are all collaborators for *Missio Dei*.

# A Giraffe



We are Women & Men For and With Others



# THANK YOU!



- Thank you for your patience, attention, and reflection!